

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JULIANA STRATTON  
 Military Economic Development Committee  
 Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
 Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

A present majority of filled member positions shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 10 members present				
Position	Name	Present	Phone	Absent
Ex-Officio				
Chair, Ex-Officio (LG's Office)	Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton		x	
Vice Chair, Ex-Officio (Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity)	Joseph McKeown		x	x
	Salvador Garza		x	
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Transportation)	Pending			
	Kirk Brown		x	
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Natural Resources)	Von Bandy			x
Ex-Officio (Dept. of the Environmental Protection Agency)	Chris Hill		x	
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Revenue)	Kristin Logue		x	
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Military Affairs)	James Smith		x	
General Assembly				
Sen. Pres. Mem.	Vacant			
Sen. Min. Lead. Mem.	Sen. Brian Stewart			x
House Speaker Mem.	Rep. Katie Stuart		x	
House Min. Lead. Mem.	Rep. Dan Swanson		x	
Public				
Pub. Mem.	Scott Lohman		x	
Pub. Mem.	Zachary Mottl		x	
Pub. Mem.	Christopher Kojak			x
Pub. Mem.	Kevin Wiley			x
Pub. Mem.	Lamar C. Brown, Esq.		x	
Pub. Mem.	Christine Nappo		x	
Pub. Mem.	Vacant			
Pub. Mem.	Vacant			
Pub. Mem.	Vacant			
Pub. Mem.	Vacant			
Military Veteran or Defense Industry				
MV/DI Mem.	Kimberly Huth		x	
MV/DI Mem.	Alderperson Carolyn Morris		x	
MV/DI Mem.	Vacant			
MV/DI Mem.	Vacant			
Military Veteran				
Vice-Chair, Military Veteran Mem.	William Cobetto		x	
Guest (non-member)				
Guest, Scott Air Force Base	Col. Robinson		x	
	Christine Spargur		x	
	Lt. Thiebert		x	

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JULIANA STRATTON  
Military Economic Development Committee  
Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

Guest, IL National Guard	Maj. Gen. Neely			x
Guest, Naval Station Great Lakes	Capt. Leung			x
Guest, Rock Island Arsenal Army Base	Col. Allison		x	
Guest	Matthew Phillips		x	

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

- a. Lt. Governor Stratton called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM
- b. Roll call was taken and a quorum established

**II. Approval of the Agenda for 03/03/22 and Approval of the Minutes from 11/18/21**

- a. **Amendment to the Agenda for 03/03/22**
  - i. Motion to amend the agenda for 03/03/22 and insert a new item under “New Business” to reflect the addition of a presentation from Scott Air Force Base
  - ii. Moved by Zachary Mottl
  - iii. Seconded by Kimberly Huth
  - iv. All in favor
  - v. No opposition
  - vi. No abstentions
- b. **Agenda for 03/03/22**
  - i. Moved by Carolyn Morris
  - ii. Seconded by Zachary Mottl
  - iii. All in favor
  - iv. No opposition
  - v. No abstentions
- c. **Minutes from 11/18/21**
  - i. Motion made by Zachary Mottl
  - ii. Seconded by Lamar C. Brown, Esq.
  - iii. All in favor
  - iv. No opposition
  - v. No abstentions

**III. Chairperson’s Remarks**

- a. Lt. Governor Stratton began her opening remarks by welcoming MEDC members to the first meeting of the year and shared her excitement for the work we will achieve together over the course of the new year. especially with the new members who have joined us. Lt. Governor Stratton begins the meeting by acknowledging Russia’s unprovoked aggression in Ukraine, this attack on a peaceful democracy is a cruel act by Vladimir Putin and one that will not go unpunished. On Tuesday, Gov. Pritzker asked that Illinois pensions, specifically for state board teacher retirement system and university retirement systems use their authority to explore divesting state pension assets from Russian based companies. She notes it is critical that we offer our solidarity not just in our words but also with action. Lt. Governor expresses her thankfulness for Col. Robinson and his team for agreeing to join the meeting today to offer an unclassified briefing on Ukraine so that we can better

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JULIANA STRATTON  
Military Economic Development Committee  
Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

understand Illinois' role in protecting our NATO allies. Lt. Governor also thanks Christine Spargur for her help in organizing the briefing.

- b. Lt. Governor takes the time to remember former MEDC colleague, Professor Janet Smith, co-director of the Natalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement, who recently passed away after a long battle with cancer.
- c. Lt. Governor ends her remarks by taking the time to thank Dr. Ronda Sauget for her hard work serving on this Committee and as Chair of the Quality of Life Subcommittee.

**IV. New Business**

- a. Scott Air Force Base Update
  - i. Col. Robinson thanks Lt. Governor Stratton for coming down to visit Scott Air Force Base earlier this year. He notes that this weekend, the Illinois international national guard is having a major exercise to get ready for their nuclear generation. Col. Robinson states he will now pass the remaining time to Lt. Thiebert. He notes that today's briefing will be unclassified but folks who have a clearance may get in contact with him to learn more. Col. Robinson believes it is important for our leadership, communities, and state to understand what we provide to our nation and what threats are out there to help people make better decisions.
  - ii. With a slide that depicts the map of Ukraine, Lt. Thiebert notes that countrywide there is fierce Ukrainian resistance. She begins with the northern part of the country, specifically the city of Kiev. Lt. Thiebert states Kiev is the key objective for Russian military to overtake and replace with their government control. She goes on to discuss issues of poor operational logistic planning by the Russian military and lack of air support from Russian Air Force, which has allowed Ukrainian resistance to stop Russian tanks. In the eastern sector of the country where Kharkiv is located, there continues to be fighting. Lt. Thiebert states that though Russian forces initially focused on attacking military bases and missile sites, they have switched to targeting civilian infrastructure. Lt. Thiebert shares information on how Russia is seeking to create a land bridge in the Donbas region by overtaking Mariupol and push more reinforcements to continue moving west. In the southern part of the country, Lt. Thiebert provides information regarding trade and how Russia is seeking to control this area to limit the Ukraine economic resources.
  - iii. Lt. Governor Stratton thanks Lt. Thiebert for sharing and asks if there are any questions for Lt. Thiebert.
  - iv. Kirk Brown notes that Russia is one of the largest fuel suppliers and yet it was interesting to hear that the Russian military forces in the north were having fuel supply issues. He asks if anyone knows why this is happening.
    - 1. Lt. Thiebert states that there are uncorroborated reports on social media that Russians are sabotaging their own equipment so that they cannot re-fuel and then are able to abandon their posts. Other

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JULIANA STRATTON  
Military Economic Development Committee  
Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

possible explanations have to do with poor logistical planning by the Russian military to sustain their forces and having not expected to meet such resistance, which has extended this conflict and made it more difficult to keep operations moving.

2. Col. Robinson also states combat logistics is incredibly difficult and requires you to invest early, with the right transportation resources and equipment to move it, which is something that Russia has not done. He notes that Scott Air Force Base has transportation command which manages all the logistics and transportation for the Department of Defense.
- v. Rep. Swanson thanks Lt. Thiebert for the presentation and asks her about humanitarian aid and assistance to refugees in Ukraine.
  1. Lt. Thiebert notes the countries receiving refugees have considerable support from non-governmental organizations, the United Nations, and the EU working together to get refugees temporary visas.
- vi. Lt. Governor Stratton asks Col. Robinson about Scott Air Force Base's specific role in what's occurring in Eastern Europe.
  1. Col. Robinson states that they are moving a lot of lethal aid which means a lot of man portable air defense systems, anti-tank weapons which are incredibly useful to the Ukrainian defenses, in addition to moving humanitarian aid in the form of blankets, tents, clothing. All of this is being managed by US- European command but Scott Air Force plays a role because US Transportation Command is headquartered here by Gen. Jaqueline Van Ovost and she manages all air fueling, air lift, sea lift, and ground transportation.
- b. Lt. Governor Visit to Scott Air Force Base
- c. Subcommittee Updates
  - i. Bobby Mannis notes there is no update for the Quality of Life Committee.
  - ii. Sal Garza provides an update on the Base Proximate Economic Development Committee, notes that he has a rough draft for a plan in place which he plans to coordinate meetings with all the military installations to discuss and have them weigh in on the draft.
  - iii. Zach Mottl provides an update on the Cybersecurity and Defense Industrial Supply Chain Committee, states he has been in contact with the Lt. Governor's staff and plans to send over some information in regards to an op-ed draft.

**V. Member Updates**

- a. Kimberly Huth expresses she has been working on licensure portability. She thanks Col. Robinson for a state of the base meeting with her organization earlier in the week. In this meeting, Col. Robinson brought up mental health concerns for dependents and military members.

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JULIANA STRATTON  
Military Economic Development Committee  
Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

- i. Lt. Governor agrees with Kimberly Huth and adds that mental health is a top priority and people in every industry needs to look at mental health and how to provide resources and supports as we move out of the pandemic.
- ii. Christine Nappo brings up a new initiative she and others have been working on which is an application for US Economic Development Association's Build Back Better Regional Challenge. Their application is the only one based out of Illinois and has been named one of the sixty finalists from over 500 applications. Logue states that it is a 19-member coalition who worked on this application and the goal is to support the development of technologies for local applications and trade, rapid rollout of critical infrastructure, and coordinated workforce development to support an end-to-end regional supply chain.
- iii. Rep. Swanson shares he has enjoyed working with Kimberly Huth and Scott Air Force Base. One of the things they are focused on is military families who come to installations for two years. Some of these families come from low-income backgrounds or have second incomes. These second incomes may be nurses and other professional fields, which is where Rep. Swanson is requesting assistance in getting the nurse licensure compact passed in Illinois.

**VI. Public Comments**

**VII. Adjournment**

- a. Motion to adjourn moved by Scott Lohman at 11:04 am
- b. Seconded by Carolyn Morris
- c. All in favor
- d. No opposition
- e. No abstentions